

NAMI HOSTS 11th ANNUAL KICK-OFF LUNCHEON FOR NAMIWALKS

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Every year, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) holds a kick-off luncheon ahead of its annual NAMIWalk to get everyone geared up for the big event in October. This year is the 11th anniversary of NAMIWalks, and this year's kick-off took place on Wednesday, August 20th at the California Endowment in downtown Los Angeles.

At the luncheon, NAMI leaders and their teams shared ideas on how to fundraise for the big walk on Saturday, October 11th at Grand Park in downtown Los Angeles. This year's speakers at the luncheon included NAMIWalks Manager Shelley Hoffman, NAMI Los Angeles Coordinating Council Executive Director Brittney Weissman, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) Director Marvin Southard, Ph.D., and NAMIWalks National Walk Manager Wayne Baldaro.



Team captains shared their stories of successful fundraising and spoke about the process of registering for the event. Every year, Dr. Southard serves as a team captain and encouraged everyone at the luncheon to support NAMI and its programs. He shared a personal story about his son, and the success and progress his son has made in his own recovery. "When somebody says recovery happens, I know it happens in real life," said Dr. Southard.

NAMIWalks is the largest anti-stigma walk in the country. The event raises public awareness and supports NAMI's programs. For more information about NAMI and the NAMIWalks, visit www.namiwalks.org/losangelescounty.

